To: Grevatt, Peter[Grevatt.Peter@epa.gov]; Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy Travers, David[Travers.David@epa.gov]; Shapiro, Mike[Shapiro.Mike@epa.gov]
From: Stoner, Nancy
Sent: Tue 1/14/2014 9:54:50 PM
Subject: FW: WV Chemical Spill - Update

fyi

From: Garvin, Shawn
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Adm13McCarthy, Gina; Deputy Administrator; Keyes-Fleming, Gwendolyn; Stanislaus, Mathy; Feldt, Lisa; Ganesan, Arvin; Reynolds, Thomas; Johnson, Alisha; Stoner, Nancy; Vaught, Laura; Distefano, Nichole; Hull, George; Stanton, Larry; Breen, Barry; Giles-AA, Cynthia; Hedman, Susan; Meiburg, Stan; Fritz, Matthew
Cc: Early, William; Hodgkiss, Kathy; Capacasa, Jon; Ryan, Daniel
Subject: RE: WV Chemical Spill - Update

Administrator et al. – Here is the WV Spill update for today. Things have been progressing. Please let know if you have any questions.

Thank you – Shawn

Drinking Water Supply

Region 3's Water Division reported that as of mid-day customers in the six zones in the immediate Charleston area were asked to flush their premise plumbing according to explicit instructions posted on the WVAWC website. These six pressure systems represent just over 50 percent of the affected population. (See http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html). More information is as follows:

· Sampling in the distribution system continues, moving outward into the distribution system, with samples being sent to multiple labs. As of today, nine GC/MS units are being employed to process the hundreds of samples in play. As the sample results from pressure zones show concentrations of MCHM less than 1 ppm, these zones are "cleared" for unrestricted use by customers (after customers follow instructions for flushing their premise plumbing).

· Region 3 water and response staff have coordinated with appropriate staff in Regions 4

and 5. As part of coordination with Region 5, contact has been made with the Ohio River Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO). I have also coordinated with RAs Hedman & Meiburg.

· ORSANCO has been monitoring water concentrations to determine persistence of the MCHM plume in the Elk-Kanawha-Ohio drainage. We do not yet have access to hard data, although we understand that concentrations below the confluence of the Kanawha and Ohio are all < 0.5 ppm. ORSANCO has also used river modeling to forecast arrival time of any residual plume at locations downstream. (See http://www.orsanco.org/february-2013-technical-and-commission-meetings/347-new-how-will-the-elk-river-spill-affect-the-cincinnati-area).

· US Fish and Wildlife Service has sought information from WV American on their discharges from flushing, presumably because of Threatened and Endangered species concerns. Also, I spoke to Dave Russ, Regional Director at the USGS, and they are looking at getting involved in potential impacts to fisheries, habitats, migratory birds, etc. We understand from WV DHHR that WVAMC is dechlorinated any water flushed out of their system.

Source Control

Region 3 OSCs report that throughout last night, the facility's contractor continued to pump water from the containment area into trucks. The contractor will continue this operation as long as the rain and run-off water continues to collect in the containment area. The contractor will extend the liner in the trench area at the base of the facility, located adjacent to the river. Water will also continue to be pumped out of this area into tanker trucks.

During the morning briefing, personnel from the facility, USCG, WVDEP, CSB, EPA, and the Attorney General's office were present. The discussion was centered on preserving evidence for CSB's investigation. It was reported that the contractor found a hole, approximately the size of a quarter, in the bottom of the tank that breached. The facility's accounting department is working with past inventory and the volume of chemical that has been transported off site to more accurately estimate the size of the release.

As the volume of water near the storm water pipe is increasing, some thought that water is originating from an additional source. No odor was present, nor was sheen observed. WVDEP conducted a field test and detected chlorine in the water. The water department subsequently detected fluorine in the water, so the water department shut off a valve, which diminished the flow in the storm water drain area. Testing of this water will be conducted and an engineering plan will be used to construct a "directional ditch" to move this water directly into the river. WVDEP, USCG, and EPA will approve the plan and determine the discharge point into the

river. Wells were punched into the ground every 10 yards in the area of the proposed directional ditch; no odor was detected in the soil and samples were sent for analysis.

The facility is continuing a river sampling program with analytical results expected by tomorrow. There are no reports of any fish kill or significant issues with aquatic life in the Elk River.

WVDEP and USCG agreed to remove the hard boom that extends across the entire river, and the boom located outside the water intake at the WVAWC. However, hard boom with interior absorbent boom will remain along the shoreline adjacent to the facility.